

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1945.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my
Report for the year 1945.

A Report from the Sanitary Inspector is
also included.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. Governor.

Medical Officer of Health.



(i) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - S. Governor, M.B., B. Ch.

Sanitary Inspector - (1) D. Lister, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(January to October 29th 1945).

(2) R.C.L. Williams, B.E.M. (Mil)

A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(November 26th to December 31st).

(ii) General Statistics.

Area in acres	19,777
Population (Registrar-General's estimate for 1945)	12,610
Number of inhabited houses.	3,757
Rateable Value	£50,132
Amount represented by 1d rate	£198

The estimated population shows a decrease of 35 on
the 1944 figure.

(iii) Vital Statistics.

Table I - Live Births.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	102	115	217
Illegitimate	6	6	12
	<u>108</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>229</u>

The birth rate is 18.2 per 1,000 population and it compares
favourably with the birth rate for England and Wales which
is 16.1. It also shows an increase on the previous year when
the birth rate in the district was 17.7 compared with 17.6
for England and Wales.

Table II - Still-Births.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

The rate for still-births is 0.16 per 1,000 compared with 0.46 for England and Wales.

Table III - Infantile Mortality.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>

The Infantile Mortality rate is 30.6 per 1,000 live births compared with 46 for England and Wales. This is a considerable reduction on the figure for 1944 when the rate for the district was 44.6 compared with 46 for England and Wales.

The causes of infantile death were as follows:-

Congenital causes	4
Broncho-Pneumonia	1
Gastro Enteritis	<u>2</u>
	<u>7</u>

There were 3 deaths recorded during the year from infantile diarrhoea under 2 years.

Table IV - Deaths in the Area and Causes.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers.	-	-	-
Cerebrospinal fever.	-	-	-
Scarlet fever.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
T.B. of respiratory system.	1	-	1
Other forms of T.B.	-	-	-
Syphilitic diseases.	2	1	3
Influenza.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis.	-	-	-
Acute infectious encephalitis.	-	-	-
Cancer.	12	14	26
Diabetes.	1	2	3
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	6	13	19
Heart disease.	18	14	32
Other diseases of circulatory system.	1	1	2
Bronchitis.	3	2	5
Pneumonia.	-	4	4
Other respiratory diseases	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	1	1	2
Diarrhoea. (under 2 years).	1	1	2
Appendicitis.	-	-	-
Other digestive diseases.	2	1	3
Nephritis.	-	-	-
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis.	-	-	-
Other maternal causes.	-	-	-
Premature births.	1	-	1
Congenital malformations etc.	3	1	4
Suicide.	1	-	1
Road Traffic Accidents.	-	-	-
Other violent causes.	5	1	6
All other causes.	14	11	25
	<u>72</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>139</u>

The death rate in March this year is 11 per 1,000 population compared with 11.4 for England and Wales. Last year's figures were 12.2 and 11.6 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the percentages of deaths in the principal age groups.

Under 1 years	50.04
1 - 5 years	.72
6 - 15 years	.72
16 - 65 years	37.41
66 and over	56.11
	<u>100.00</u>

The average age at death was 63 .4 years.

(iv) Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Notified:

Diphtheria	1
Erysipelas	5
Measles	195
Scarlet Fever	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4
T.B. - pulmonary	3
T.B. - non-pulmonary	5
	<u>215</u>

The Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases were removed to Wisbech Joint Isolation Hospital.

A measles epidemic was experienced during the year reaching its peak in July when 102 cases were notified during the month. There was a gradual decline in the number of cases from thereon and only 3 cases were notified during December.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A good proportion of children were again immunised by the County Medical Officer. It is to be hoped that in future all parents will have their children done.

Treatment of Scabies.

Eight cases of Scabies were sent for treatment to the Wisbech Public Assistance Institution by virtue of the arrangements under the Scabies Order 1941; a decrease on the number for 1944 which was 18.

The health bill for the year has been very satisfactory. There is no item which calls for special mention.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1945.

1. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out in 1945:-

Public Health Acts: Nuisances	.	.	.	.	.	134
Housing Acts: Disrepair	.	.	.	.	.	117
do : Overcrowding	.	.	.	.	.	7
Cowsheds	.	.	.	.	.	42
Dairies and Milkshops	.	.	.	.	.	101
Slaughterhouses	.	.	.	.	.	440
Knackers Yards	.	.	.	.	.	8
Bakehouses	.	.	.	.	.	2
Fried Fish Shops	.	.	.	.	.	9
Food Preparing Premises	.	.	.	.	.	49
Other Food Shops and Stores	.	.	.	.	.	66
Factories and Workshops	.	.	.	.	.	15
Shops Acts	.	.	.	.	.	8
Infectious Diseases	.	.	.	.	.	5
Scabies Order	.	.	.	.	.	52
Verminous Premises (inc. Rats and Mice)	.	.	.	.	.	10
Keeping of Fowls etc.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Piggeries	.	.	.	.	.	30
Refuse Accommodation	.	.	.	.	.	14
Moveable Dwellings	.	.	.	.	.	21
Sanitary Conveniences	.	.	.	.	.	5
Water Supplies	.	.	.	.	.	7
Drains Inspections	.	.	.	.	.	280
Miscellaneous, interviews and meetings	.	.	.	.	.	22
Civil Defence	.	.	.	.	.
						1449

The following table shows defects found and remedied during the year by action under the Public Health & Housing Acts:-

	<u>Defects Found.</u>	<u>Defects Remedied.</u>	<u>Outstanding at end of 1945.</u>
<u>Drainage</u>			
Choked drains	11	10	1
Defective drains	3	3	-
Insufficient drainage	4	4	-
Drainage polluting dykes	1	1	-
Cesspools over-flowing	8	8	-
Cesspools, def. construction	2	2	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>			
Def. closets, structure	8	8	-
Defective sanitary pails	2	2	-
<u>Other Nuisances</u>			
Dirty houses	2	2	-
Dirty yards	9	9	-
Nuisance from fowls	3	3	-
Improper disposal of waste water	1	1	-
moveable dwellings	3	3	-
Accumulations of refuse	5	5	-
<u>Verminous infestations</u>			
Rats and Mice	12	12	-
Vermin	9	9	-

Table continued overleaf:

(Table of Defects continued).

	<u>Defects</u> <u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Defects</u> <u>Found.</u>	<u>Out standing at</u> <u>end of 1945.</u>
<u>Housing Defects</u>			
Defective roofs	17	9	8
walls	5	4	1
eavespouts	6	6	-
plasterwork	14	9	5
washing accommodation	3	3	-
Doors and frames	3	3	-
windows, woodwork	5	3	2
stoves and fireplaces	3	1	2
floors	1	1	-
stairs	1	1	-
Insufficient or defective refuse accommodation	12	11	1
Dampness	3	-	3
	-----	-----	-----
	156	133	23
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II. HOUSING:

Two houses were represented to the Council during the year for actions under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. As a result one house was demolished, the tenant being rehoused by the Council, and in the case of the second house an undertaking not to relet for human habitation was accepted from the owner.

One house infested with bed-bugs was disinfested by the Council at the request of the owner, treatment being carried out with "Zaldecide".

III. WATER SUPPLY:

There has been no change in the circumstances of the district during the year. The following is the information requested in the Ministry of Health's Circular 49/45.

- (i) Whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. - Yes.
- (ii) Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations have been made of the water, and the results of any analysis. - No official samples have been taken on behalf of the Council; the water is known to be examined at regular intervals on behalf of the Water Company.
- (iii) The position as to contamination by lead. - The water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) Action as to contamination. - There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.
- (v) Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of population supplied from public water mains.
 - (a) Direct to houses 90%
 - (b) By means of standpipes 10%

IV. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION:

(a) Meat. The number of animals killed during the year at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses in the town was as follows:- Cows 236; Other Bovines 851; Calves 493; Sheep 1,743; Pigs 1,093; Total 4,416. This is a slight decrease on the figure for 1944 when the corresponding number was 4,895.

There are two Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses one situated at City Road and the other at Burrowmoor Road. These premises were originally licenced slaughterhouses and as such they were not designed or intended to deal with the number of animals for which they are now being used.

Both slaughterhouses are provided with cooling rooms for small animals but beasts are slaughtered, dressed and hung in the slaughterhouse. At both slaughterhouses diseased meat is dumped in open shed to await collection and whilst the slaughterhouse manager makes every effort to have it removed expeditiously it frequently happens that diseased meat remains for two days. The City Road Slaughterhouse having regard to its location does not lend itself to extensions being in rather a congested area but Burrowmoor Road is far better situated and I venture to suggest that if adequate provision was made for hanging beef the whole of the slaughtering for the area could be done at Burrowmoor Road.

100% inspection is aimed at and by considerable overtime work can usually be attained. Mention must be made of the assistance afforded by the slaughterhouse staff, in particular the slaughterhouse manager, without whose help the work would be almost impossible.

Condemnations during the year included the following whole carcasses: Cows 17; Other Bovines 11; Calves 2; Sheep 7; Pigs 33; Total 70; together with a quantity of offals and parts of carcasses bringing the total weight of meat condemned up to 14 ~~tons~~. 14 cwt. 3 qrs. 8 lbs. This is a decrease on the previous year.

	Cows	Other bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
No. of animals killed.	236	851	493	1,743	1,093	4,416
Condemnations: <u>Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcasses	8	8	1	-	2	19
Part carcasses and/or organs	70	88	1	-	89	198
% of animals affected with Tuberculosis	31.8	10.9	0.4	-	3.8	4.9
Condemnations: <u>Other Causes</u> Whole carcass	9	3	1	7	31	51
Part carcasses and/or organs	43	206	2	23	59	333
% of animals affected with other diseases	24.07	23.4	0.6	1.7	8.2	8.7

(b) Other Foods. Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other foodstuffs, and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

(i) <u>Tinned Goods.</u>	<u>No. of Tins.</u>	<u>Weight, lbs.</u>
Meat	78	122 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish	97	87 $\frac{1}{4}$
Vegetables	73	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
Milk	152	138 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jam	6	9
	<u>406</u>	<u>447$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

(ii) <u>Miscellaneous.</u>	<u>Weight, lbs.</u>
Bacon	145
Biscuits	31

(ii) <u>Miscellaneous continued:-</u>	<u>Weight, lbs.</u>
Butter	56
Herrings	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tea	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Chocolate	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cake	61
Sugar	76
	<u>400$\frac{3}{4}$</u>

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered, and in no case was seizure under the Food and Drugs Act required.

V. MILK AND DAIRIES:

At the end of the year, 23 persons were registered as producers of milk in the district, and the number of cows in milk was approximately 250. Fourteen producers dispose of their milk mainly by wholesale and the remaining 9 are retail purveyors. There are in addition 4 other persons registered as retail purveyors who are not producers.

Most of the premises can be said to comply with the letter of the Milk and Dairies Order as to construction, but many are below the generally accepted standard for clean milk production.

Five licences to produce 'Accredited' milk (a decrease of 1) and 3 to produce 'Tuberculin Tested' milk were in force in the district at the end of the year.

One dairyman in the town holds a licence for a pasteurising plant, and is handling a large proportion of the milk from local farms. The 'holder' method of pasteurisation is employed. This dairy has an officially approved laboratory under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, and all incoming milk is tested for keeping quality before heat treatment.

Pasteurised milk is also retailed in the district from 2 other sources outside the area.

Milk Samples: Samples of milk have been taken during the year from local retailers, and sent to the Advisory Bacteriologist at the School of Agriculture, Cambridge for bacteriological examination.

(a) National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme: The sampling of producer retailers, not covered by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme has been continued this year. The samples were all examined at the local laboratory with the results shown.

No. of samples taken	Resazurin Category		
	A	B	C
14	9	4	1

Advisory visits following unsatisfactory samples were made by the staff of the War Agricultural Executive Committee.

(b) Pasteurised Milk: Samples were also taken during the year of pasteurised milk being sold in the district, and submitted to the School of Agriculture laboratory, Cambridge, for examination by the plate count for cleanliness, and by the phosphatase test to determine the efficiency of heat treatment. The following shows the results:-

No. of samples taken.	Satisfied both tests.	Satisfied plate Count but not Phosphatase.	Failed both tests.
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VI. RATS AND MICE. INFESTATION ORDER:

One operator is engaged on this work on a part-time basis. There are no major infestations in the area.

VII. FACTORIES ACT 1937:

Four informal notices were served during the year with regard to sanitary accommodation not in accordance with the Order; 2 cases were still outstanding at the end of the year.

VIII. TABLE OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1945:

	Served during 1945.	Complied with by 31/12/45.
Public Health & Housing Acts		
Verbal	37	31
Letter	51	32
Statutory.	2	2
Food & Drugs Act 1938		
Verbal	1	1
Letter	-	-
Meat Regulations 1924		
Verbal	3	3
Milk & Dairies Orders		
Verbal	9	9
Letter	2	2
Factories Act 1937		
Letter	5	3
Other Acts & Orders		
Verbal	6	6
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	116	89
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In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the members of the Council, and my colleagues on the staff for their helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R.C.L. WILLIAMS.

Sanitary Inspector.

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY
JOHN HUTCHINGS

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY

JOHN HUTCHINGS,
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MARKET PLACE.

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